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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

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Group Art Unit: 2661

Filed: March 12, 2002

Examiner: Mark A. Mais

Title: Multi-User Time Slots For TDMA

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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SIR:

AMENDMENT

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated March 8, 2006.

REMARKSRejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beming et al ("Beming", WO 99/16264) in view of Stacey et al ("Stacey", USP 6,434,154).

The present invention is concerned with the transmission of speech from at least two users, in which data from the users is encoded into a single RLC/MAC block and in which at least a portion of the encoded block is transmitted in at least one time-slot of a TDMA frame.

Beming discloses a method in which a mobile station is able to handle different services over a communications link with a base station. The services may have different requirements and the method seeks to simultaneously support each of them by a single mobile station (page 1, lines 23-28). Data is separated into blocks and the separated blocks then combined with other blocks having similar Quality of Service requirements to provide a transmission block (discussed in the passage headed "Summary of the Invention" bridging pages 2 and 3). This gives a flexible mechanism for providing multiple services by a single mobile station (page 9, lines 3-10).

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner identifies a passage on page 1, lines 16-22 of Beming as showing "data blocks used to send voice or video". However, this particular passage does not mention how different types of services discussed therein are provided between